

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of  
WOODGREEN PARISH COUNCIL held in Woodgreen Reading Room on  
Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 7.30pm.**

**25/26.135 Members present:** Lance Benest (LB)(Chair), JohnClarke (JC), Helena Datta (HD), Stewart Hall (SH), Guy Rafferty (GR and Pete Skinner (PS).

**Also present:** Amanda Johnson (Parish Clerk), Janet Richards, NFDC District Councillor and 3 members of the public.

**Apologies for Absence:** Mark Flannigan (MF)

**25/26.136 Declarations of interest:** None

**25/26.137 Minutes of previous meeting held on 13/01/2026.**

**25/26.137.1** Following a review of the minutes, it was then unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

**25/26.137.2 Matters arising from previous minutes not appearing as agenda items.**

*Steels Drove* - AJ will talk to residents regarding the security of the gate.

*Grit bin* - A new bin has been installed at Castle Hill.

*Castle Hill view point*- No reply has yet been received from FE regarding the cutting of trees to maintain the view. AJ will chase up.

**25/26.138 Public Participation:** Three members of the public spoke in opposition to the current planning application 25/01477FULL.

**25/26.139 Report by New Forest District Councillor:**

*New Forest District (outside the National Park) Local Plan Review Public Consultation* - The consultation runs until 20th March and all parishioners are advised to comment. There is a drop in event in Fordingbridge on 13th Feb between 1pm and 7pm and other events in the NFDC area. The review includes proposed sites for development around Fordingbridge totalling nearly 3000 houses.

**25/26.140 Planning:** The following applications were discussed:

Case Number	25/01477FULL
Proposal	Alteration (flue) to existing agricultural building
Site	Land adjacent Millersford Copse, Land at Millersford Bottom, Fordingbridge, SP6 2QY

Councillors unanimously agreed to recommend option 4 Refusal. This application seeks permission for a flue to facilitate a woodburning stove, Woodgreen Parish Council do not believe that a woodburning stove is required in an agricultural building and could prove a fire risk to such a building which would often house highly flammable materials.

Previous alterations to this building, although allowed under permitted development, appear to indicate a move to the barn becoming a habitable space and the addition of a flue (for a woodburning stove) would seek to add to this process.

Case Number	26/00061CONS
Proposal	Prune/Reduce down 1 x group of Conifers trees.
Site	Windrush, Woodgreen Common Road, Woodgree, SP6 2BQ

Case Number	26/00047TPO
Proposal	Fell 1 x Sweet Chestnut Tree (tree is part of W1 of TPO 0069/05)
Site	Newton Lodge, Upper Densome Wood, Woodgreen SP6 2QU

SH and HD visited all the sites and had no issues with the proposed works and therefore recommended to accept the decision of the National Park Authority Tree Officer. This was unanimously agreed.

**25/26.141 Meetings Attended:**

NW Quadrant Meeting 19th Jan JC and HD attended -

*Forestry England* representatives updated councillors on the new car parking charges, 16 pay terminals will be installed in the New Forest and 10 people will be employed to travel around the other car parks to monitor them. Users will have 24 hours to pay for their parking. Local people can become members of *Forestry England* for £96 per household to access unlimited free parking.

Displaced parking may be an issue and measures will be put in place to monitor and address this.

*NFDC* - All properties within the cattle gridded area can leave their food waste bins for collection within their boundary.

*National Grid* - National Grid will be returning to refurbish the second half of cables on the pylons (the first half was done in 2024). National Grid manages a grant fund to support the local area (details can be found on the National Park website).

**25/26.142 Forestry England Parking charges:** The parking charges being brought in April 2026 have been preceded by ditching works to alleviate verge parking, some of which has been carried out from Woodgreen to Godshill. The parish council were not informed of these works and will write to FE to outline their concerns regarding the result, for example horse riders are now forced to ride on the road.

**25/26.143 Speed Indicator Devices:** Two speed indicator devices have been purchased and are ready for use when Hampshire Highways have installed the corresponding posts.

Roger Penny Way - Godshill Parish Council have produced a report to discuss installing SIDs along Roger Penny Way. This will be submitted to the Verderers Court. Woodgreen PC unanimously agreed to support this proposal in principle.

**25/26.144 Village Maintenance and Parish Council Property (including the cemetery, roads, hedges, footpaths, ditches) :**

**Broken gate at the top of Steels Drove** - This has been reported to HCC as it is a Public Right of Way.

**Lengthsman** - The next Lengthsman visit will be 16th Feb, jobs will include replacing dragons teeth and emptying the green bin at the cemetery and clearing footpaths.

**Pot holes** - All pot holes and road issues have been reported to HCC Highways. The large pot hole on the road to Breamore has caused much tyre damage and this will be added to the reporting process.

**25/26.145 Improvement of walk/cycle path along roadside (to Breamore):** SH proposed the installation of a walk/cycle way from Woodgreen to Breamore to aid the many walkers/cyclists who regularly use this route. This would involve a gravel path on the verge from just past the Reading Room to the Great Bridge. SH has liaised with Cllr Richards and will begin making enquiries about how to proceed with such a project; he will also contact Breamore Parish, Cllr Heron and the Hulse family. The availability of grants will then be investigated, including CIL and National Grid. All councillors supported and unanimously agreed to proceed with this project.

**25/26.146 Review of cemetery maintenance contract:** The parish council are very happy with the current cemetery contractors agreeing that they provide an excellent service and value for money. It was unanimously agreed to continue using Cutting Edge as the cemetery maintenance contractors.

**25/26.147 Annual Parish Assembly:** The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Wednesday 22nd April in Woodgreen Village Hall. The format will follow previous years with a cheese and wine reception at 7pm followed by formal talks. Village representatives will be invited to present reports along with District and County Councillors and Suzy McNulty will present information regarding the newly reformed Hale and Woodgreen First Responders Group.

**25/26.148 Grant applications:** Two applications were received - one from the Hale and Woodgreen First Responders Group and one from Make Memories Better. It was agreed to award the allocated £200 budget for 2025/26 to the Hale and Woodgreen First Responders Group (via the SCAS charity).

**25/26.149 AGAR Assertion 10** - Assertion 10 is a new part of the Annual Governance and Accounting Report which all parish councils must adhere to; it aims to improve GDPR and data protection procedures. The current Woodgreen PC website meets the new criteria, as do the councillor emails (all .gov.uk). An IT policy must be in place and will be drawn up for ratification at the next meeting.

**25/26.150 Financial report, Review of Ongoing Budget and approval of payments.**

a. **Current Balances -**

- Lloyds Treasurers Account £15,085.12 as at 03.02.2025.
- Lloyds 32 Notice Account £81,498.47 as at 03.02.2025.

Ongoing annual expenditure and current balances were noted and approved.

b. **Expenditure:** The following payments were approved.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	METHOD
A.Johnson	Salary - January	444.90		Standing Order
British Gas	Reading Room costs	13.32		Direct Debit
Lloyds Bank	Monthly bank service charges	4.25		Direct Debit
SLCC	Membership	84.32		BACS
HMRC	PAYE (Oct to Dec)	17.50		BACS
ELAN City	Speed Indicator Device	6438.67	1073.11	BACS

**25/26.151 The following correspondence was noted.**

**For information (previously circulated) -**

- 20/01/26 NFDC Cllr Jill Cleary - Close of government consultation and next steps.
  - 21/01/26 Hampshire Police - Road Safety summit.
  - 22/01/26 National Park Authority - January Newsletter
  - 24/01/26 Godshill Parish Council - Discussion report on SIDs along Roger Penny Way.
  - 26/01/26 NFDC to deliver 50 more shared ownership homes.
  - 29/01/26 NFDC to launch an improved customer service system.
  - 30/01/26 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner - January Newsletter
  - 02/02/26 NFALC - Minutes from the meeting held on 26th January.
  - 03/02/26 HCC - report form Nick Adams-King
  - 03/02/26 NFDC - Free workshops to help New Forest businesses stay resilient.
- Consultations:-
- New Forest District (outside the National Park) local Plan Review Public Consultation.
  - Parishioner email *The PC will approve a response at the next meeting.*
  - 25/01/26 Parishioner email regarding village parking issues. *AJ will reply.*

**25/26.152 Any other business and matters to be raised on the next agenda.**

*Wessex Internet-* WPC have been informed that the installation of infrastructure to supply Full Fibre Broadband to the village is on hold as the contract with Wessex internet has been paused. No further information is known.

*Fire extinguishers* - The fire extinguishers will be serviced along with the village hall on March 3rd .  
JC to action.

*Play Matters* - Play Matters have informed the parish council that the proposed play area will cover 330sqm, this has been amended for the planning application.

Next meeting - NFDC Local Plan Review Consultation,

**Next meeting Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7.30pm**

The meeting ended at 9.10pm

Signed by the Chair .....

Date .....